

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19-43 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claim 9 is amended into independent form, and claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 are amended for clarification purposes only. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

It gratefully appreciated that the Office Action indicates that claims 9-18 contain allowable subject matter.

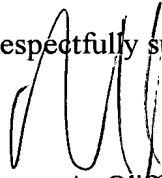
The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakashima (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,002); claims 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakashima. Claim 1 is canceled. Thus, the rejection of this claim is moot.

Furthermore, allowable claim 9 is amended into independent form to include the features of cancelled claim 1. Thus, claim 9 is in a condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 are amended to depend from allowable claim 9. Thus, claims 2-8 are also in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Richard S. Elias
Registration No. 48,806

JAO:RSE/eks

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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